

# Rockwood, Brisbane, Eden Mills schools combine for charming Christmas concert

Despite blustery wintery weather a capacity crowd was on hand to view the combined Rockwood, Brisbane and Eden Mills Public Schools presentation of their Christmas concert held at the Rockwood Centennial School last Thursday evening, December 18.

After an opening welcome from R. Love, the start off of the program was an entertaining and provocative play based on the hazards of raising children without discipline, cunningly portrayed by the Rockwood School pupils. Marianne Waddell was the psychologist in "Child Psychology" and Marie Hartung, Barbara McLaren, and Sandy Koot were the mothers of the three impossible children depicted by Philip Drijber, Lindsay Jones, and Trudy Smith.

The Brisbane School choir of girls, boys and mixed voices, then sang a medley of carols under the direction of Mrs. Roberta Hoy, the district music supervisor.

Combining voices with rhythmic instruments, the Rockwood and Eden Mills Primary Choir gave their rendition of three Christmas favorites including Frosty the Snowman. Anne Wickham and

Joanne Seime delighted the audience with their calisthenic abilities while Shirley Ritchie portrayed a doctor of sorts. Marsha Stumph acted out and mimed a recording after which the Centennial School's older boy and girl choirs sang Christmas Carols. Gay piano music was then played by Mrs. Hoy as the Brisbane School children artfully square danced before the final act of the 1969 Christmas program.

And then the finale. With absolute charm and simplicity the Rockwood Public School children, under the direction of Mary Love presented their version of the age old story of the Nativity.

As the Senior girls' choir, garbed in navy skirts and white blouses, carried lighted candles up the centre aisle of the auditorium to the stage where they assembled as a lighted background, the story of the birth of Jesus unfolded.

Marika Schuller was an angelic Mary who, with Joseph portrayed by Jack Drull, Linda Miller as Gabriel, and other angels, Nancy Glendenning, Susan McQuinn and Denise Jones, completed the first Nativity scene as shepherds, Brent Storey, David Rayner, and

Doug McAlpine, garbed in simple costume, both carrying cleverly hand-made lambs, slowly wended their way to the stage to compose yet another charming scene in the Christmas pantomime.

Charles McRae as the Herald, beautifully narrated the entire production and, as the three Wise Men, singing the individual verses of "We Three Kings" came up the centre aisle and presented their gifts to the young child, the Nativity Scene was completed with Norman Craigie, Tommy Monkhouse, and Carl Petersen, as the latter actors.

A Mass Choir then invited audience participation in their Christmas selections of songs with O Canada finalizing the performances of an exceptionally fine evening of talent and portrayals which were very much enjoyed with everyone feeling just a little warmer and more like Christmas.

Comments such as "That's the best school program I have ever seen in Rockwood" and "This had been an evening well worth coming to" circulated throughout the auditorium culminating a worthwhile session of practicing, planning, and preparing, by the combination of the three school's industrious teachers and their students.



SHEPHERDS AND KINGS PRESENTED their gifts to the Christ Child at the pageant presented by students at the Rockwood Centennial School Thursday evening. Lighting effects added atmosphere to the tableaux with candles held by girls in the background. (Staff Photo)

## News and views

By LORRAINE

Frosty snowmen made by spirited children, Christmas lights shining from the trees, replicas of Santa Clauses dashing across roof tops, and darling little choir people standing together singing carols in the snow, as their sign reads "Greetings" to all.

Rockwood has a new feel this Christmas, almost as if something different was happening. Churches seem more filled, people are caring more, school concerts are more professional, and it would appear that the Village is growing up with its general air of "this is where it's at."

Everyone enjoys Christmas, it's a fun time for all. One of love and good cheer with worries temporarily shelved making room for well being and family togetherness. It's a time of reflections of the past for oldsters, considerations of portents of the inevitable for the middle aged, but, as always only glorious excitement and wonder for the very young.

Late open nights have made Village shopkeepers a little harassed perhaps, but many of them have been seen in attendance at various concerts and community Christmas parties, so they too, are entering into the general spirit of it all.

Maybe it's a shedding of old conventions, maybe it's the need to think togetherness, maybe it's just "about time" but this delightful, sleepytime Rockwood, seems to this writer to be flexing its muscles and straining to unleash its bonds of past conservatism and distrusts, plunging forth with more fellowship, esprit de corps, and general well being and confidence.

The snowy Anglican Church hill is smooth from children sliding down it on their sleds; firemen and villagers are working diligently preparing a rink in the local ball park for the lucky children with skates from Santa Claus; there are many new people around and visiting back and forth is no longer a thing of the past. Snowmobile buffs are buzzing through the streets and parks with shouts of laughter and goodwill being thrown at passers by, the whole world seems with it and "It's a Holly Jolly, Christmas for Everyone" is more like an attitude than a song.

There are sadnesses of course, some people who made this Village what it is have left us during the past few months and, for this we consider and are sorry, but, passing from such sad reflections it can be said that the general fervor around and about is starting to show with selfless giving which is, after all, the true spirit of Christmas.

Chapter three, Verse 4 of Ecclesiastes tells us that there is "a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance." We would like to mirror these thoughts and wish all, a Very Merry Christmas.

### Man of the week

Santa Claus from the North Pole who took time off from his busy schedule to attend Church Concerts and parties to spread good cheer and make Christmas time just a little happier for many children all over the world.

A man of many faces who has the amazing ability to change in astonishing sizes and shapes and has, in some instances, been seen in two places at one time.

### 4-H girls party

On Wednesday, Dec. 17, the Dublin 4-H girls held their Christmas party at the home of Mrs. Douglas, the assistant leader.

The evening commenced with various games, as each girl and leader eagerly participated to win the prizes. A tasty snack of cold cuts, salads and a variety of cookies and cakes was served.

The girls then proceeded to an exchange of gifts, including perfume, jewellery and stationery. The party was completed with the singing of Christmas carols.

The girls have now completed the fall club, Meat In The Menu, and they are all looking forward to the spring project, Separates for Summer.

### New carpet

New red patterned carpeting has been installed in St. Alban's church, the gift of the Anglican Church Women.

### Short quote

December Twenty-first — the shortest day of the year. All newspapers may quote.

### Three contenders Wellington seat

So far there are three contenders for the warden's chair in Wellington county. At the final meeting for the 1969 council, three councillors expressed their aspirations for the wardenship. Leonard McAninch, reeve of Guelph township; Kenneth Denny, reeve of Fergus, and Allan Ross, reeve of Minto township.

Three councillors also said they would seek the county road committee appointment, which normally brings the chairmanship in three years. Reeve Stanley Fuller, Erin township; deputy-reeve Elwood Hall, Peel township and Dr. Kenneth R. Fisk, reeve of Harriston.

**A MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
In the happy spirit of the holiday cheer that abounds, may we offer sincere wishes for a Merry Christmas to all our friends.

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SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT the girls sang Thursday evening. Three schools participated in weaving a Christmas fantasy for the crowded auditorium at Rockwood Centennial School the evening. (Staff Photo)

## Grinningest nativity scene features genuine infant

With hands reaching and toe pulling baby fashion, Elizabeth Ann Hudson starred in character as the infant Jesus, at Sunday afternoon's St. John's Anglican Church Nativity.

Another local Christmas Church party was held with members of the congregation on hand to enjoy the children's performance as Elyse Gould was Mary, Christopher Hudson a

very young Joseph, Beth Clark an angel and Jamie Hudson, Gabriel.

As the shepherds gathered to worship the Christ Child, Danny Eason, Neil McMinn and Bobby Hudson, pulled their cloaks around them holding their staffs. The wisemen then came forward in eight year old kingly elegance in the persons of Pam Ingle, Lindsay Jones and Shirley

Ritchie, as the background music played We Three Kings. The curtain came down on the happiest and grinningest Nativity Scene ever and it was delightful. Cheryl McMinn had compiled the material and was the narrator for the performance with John Eason in charge of the curtain. After the performance Pam Ingle led a sing song of Christmas carols until refreshments were served then, at a crucial point of the afternoon, everyone was amazed to see Santa Claus again making his rounds and it must be agreed that this is surely the busiest year he has had in the Village and it is amazing to realize how much he is able to accomplish with so many local pre Christmas calls.

### Comin's and Goin's

The Stone United Church will be holding its annual carol and candle light service on Christmas Eve at 8 p.m. The carol service conducted by the church school will be held at the Rockwood Presbyterian church at 7.30 p.m. A Christmas Eve carol and candlelight service will be held at St. John's Anglican church at 8.30 p.m.

An open invitation is extended to all ages who will be sporting

new, old or just plain skates this Sunday, January 4, to a skating party at the Hillsburg arena where skating to music is a specialty. The bus leaves the Anglican church parish hall at 1.30 p.m. returning to the hall at 4 o'clock when a hot dog and hot chocolate will be served. Cost for the afternoon of fun will only be \$1 for everything including transportation. Everybody welcome.

**Merry Christmas**

Bright and happy wishes are coming your way.

May your heart be happy and your Christmas merry.

**BALDWIN'S SPUR SERVICE**  
ROCKWOOD



A CANDLELIGHT PROCESSION through the darkened auditorium escorted the characters for the nativity play to the stage at Rockwood Centennial School Thursday night. (Staff Photo)

**It's the season of peace and good will. To friends, neighbors, sincere thanks.**

**A peace at Christmas**

MANAGEMENT & STAFF  
**AL'S GROCETERIA**  
ROCKWOOD

**CHRISTMAS CHEER**

May your holiday be as cheerful and happy as a child's Christmas Eve dreams.

**BRANDCO INSULATING**  
ROCKWOOD — Denis & Gary Bruce



On th' Twentieth-Forth o' December, Down hyar at th' barn, Jon Thatcher's nag Freddie, Was spinnin' some yarn. 'Bout an ole guy with whiskers Wot'd be 'round in th' night Tryin' us all presents, Fer us horses deelite.

Wal, I aint one f'gurechin, But it shore made me grin, Y' see Lady R. K., An ole Flooze took in Me, I paid no attention Y' wot Freddie said, Just cuddled up t' him In th' hay on my bed.

Then, 'round about midnight, I hord noises reel bad, But, too deepy to waken, I stayed down in my pad. Then all of a sudden I feel all cold n' friskered, There some guy wuz standin' With a red coat, all wikkered.

He gave a hearty puffaw, An pulled down off'n his back, Some oat balls fer horses, N' sugar bars fer a snack. Poor Freddie just trembled, An th' other horses did stare, An th' funny ole geezer With such presents so rare.

Now, I'm not sure if I dreamed it, But I mite as well tell, Thet I thot I heard sumpin' J' Sounded just like a bell. How that ole guy did scramble, An he got ready to go, He pulled his sack 't' his shoulders, An chuckled Ho, Ho.

Now me, I thought fast like, An chomped at his briches, G-A-W-L-E-E I aint often we horses, Sces guys with such riches. He grabbed fer his trousers, Dropped some oats on th' floor, An pushin' hand with his shoulders, He got throo th' door.

But not before Santa, 'Cause thet's who he wuz Had looked at me, grinin, An with a quick little cue, Said, "Lookkee here Pretty Fair baby, Yew'd better be gwud, Or you won't rag again next year, Like yew know that yew deewd".

It sudden-like struck me, Thet even tho' he was fat He reminded me of someone Playin' baseball an bat. So-o-o, thet was th' answer, This wikkered ole varmint, An a battlayer dreyed, In a red-coated garmint.

So, I went back t' sleep like, In my warm cog bed, With visions o' oatflakes, Runnin' 'round in my head. Then I heard some more scuttlin', An another loud scurry, Ole Santa had left With his deers in a hurry.

When th' next mornin' 'did dawn, An I looked 'round th' table, Thar were presents fer horses An this aint no fable! A blanket fer Freddie, Some inhulshed oat bags, Gumbdrops an sugar cubes, Lotta gwud things fer nags.

So I'm guessin' thet Santa Claus Gag is let free, Christmas is fer all creatures, Hannans, an us horses tew, So, I sez t' yew guys, Who reads me sometimes out here, Here's best wishes to everyone, From yer friend, Pretty Fair.

### Error

An error was made in last week's Free Press when, on this page, one of the Kitchen Bowlers was captioned incorrectly with the wrong name. Myra Benham was really Vera McDougall of Guelph.

**Joy TO YOU World**

glad, glorious Christmas comes, and with it best wishes, grateful thanks to you.

**LOU'S USED CARS**  
ROCKWOOD